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IN PAGE E 6

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## Intelligence Aide Testifies Against Westmoreland

A two-star general who served as the chief of intelligence in Vietnam for two years testified against his former commander last week. Maj. Gen. Joseph A. McChristian told the jury in the 17-week-old CBS libel trial that Gen. William C. Westmoreland had delayed reporting estimates of higher enemy strengths to Washington with the explanation, "If I send that cable to Washington, it will create a political bombshell."

The testimony was elicited by CBS attorneys to support the charge in the 1982 documentary, "The Uncounted Enemy: A Vietnam Deception," that the former United States commander in Vietnam understated North Vietnamese and Vietcong strength in 1967. His purpose, according to the documentary, was to hold back evidence that indicated the war was not progressing favorably.

General Westmoreland, who maintains that he delayed passing along the estimates to his superiors only until he had had a chance to review them, is suing CBS for \$120 million.

General McChristian is the highest-ranking officer to be called by CBS. Holding up a homemade hand grenade of the sort, he said, that was commonly used by the Vietcong's self-defense forces, he took issue with General Westmoreland's testimony that the part-time forces were not a military threat and could not be counted accurately. He called them a vital part of the enemy's defense.

Under vigorous cross-examination that brought out some discrepancies between his trial testimony and his previous accounts of the incident, General McChristian held to his position that it was "improper" to delay troop estimates because of political considerations.

During his five hours of testifying, he kept his eyes averted from General Westmoreland, seated a few feet away.